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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The first meeting of the National Congress (Quoc Dai Dai Hoi) was held on 6 September under the Presidency of Pham Cong Tac, Cao Dai Pope, and Secretary Le Ngoc Chan, Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang Party (VNQDD) leader.

a. Delegates included Bui Duong (North Vietnam Catholics and personal representative of Le Huu Tu, Bishop of Phat Diem), Tran Trung Dung (North Vietnam Catholics), Ngo Dinh Nhu (Central Vietnam Catholics and brother of Ngo Dinh Diem), Nguyen Ton Hoan (South Vietnam Dai Viet Party and Catholics), Bui Diem (North Vietnam Dai Viet Party), Rev. To Lien (Buddhists), Nguyen The Thuyen (Independents and Fourth International), Tran Van Tuyen (Phu Quoc Hoi), Le Van Vien (Binh Xuyen), and Luong Trong Tuong (Hoa Hao). There were about 60 delegates.

b. Ten extremists led by Ngu, Dung and Hoan, tried to seize control of the Congress, and pass activist anti-Bao Dai and anti-French resolutions. They were opposed by Tac, Duong, Tuyen and Chan. On the advice of Defense Minister Phan Huy Quat, who was not a delegate, Tac repudiated these extremist press statements.

c. Moderates consider that the Congress has not yet officially convened as all of the North Vietnam delegates have not arrived. Dai Viet Party leader Dang Van Sung will attempt to exert influence through Tran Trong Kim, who is sympathetic but not a Dai Viet Party member. Kim will send a personal representative to the Congress who will actually represent Sung's views. Sung is unable to leave Hanoi because of party reorganization. Kim is too old for the trip.

2. Sung has improved relations with North Vietnam Governor Nguyen Huu Tri. In the future, Tri is expected to follow the Dai Viet Party line. The recent reorganization of the Dai Viet Party as a result of a series of conferences in

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Hanoi brings 3,000 of the 5,000 active members under the control of Sung, who is now the official Dai Viet Party Secretary-General. 1,000 members, mostly in South Vietnam, remain under the control of Hoan, who refuses to submit to Sung's leadership on grounds he will lose his following. 1,000 members are split into small independent groups. The policy of Sung's group is to support Bao Dai, gain concessions from the French by negotiations only, and undermine the extremist nationalists. In the military field, they want a combined Franco-Vietnamese High Command but are willing to allow the French forces to remain in Vietnam for "five or six years."

3. The plans of Quat and Le Thang, Minister of Public and Social Works, to go to Paris are still indefinite. The Vietnamese Paris delegation awaits the return of Nguyen Van Tam on 10 September prior to formation.
4. There is no Bao Dai-Ngo Dinh Diem rapprochement. Bao Dai fears that Diem threatens his position by favoring a regency under Nam Phuong, Bao Dai's wife, for Bao Long, Bao Dai's son. Diem's current position is moderate. He does not support Nhu's extremism.
5. The following is the Dai Viet Party reaction to Secretary Dulles' St. Louis speech and press conference:
 - a. The U.S. position is still not clear. There is no firm commitment to use U.S. troops in the event of Chinese Communist intervention. The U.S. position relative to Vietnam is vague.
 - b. The leaders are generally opposed to a second conference dealing with problems in Indochina, and feel Vietnam would be the loser in view of Anglo-French desire for a general settlement, and former U.S. yielding to Anglo-French pressure.
6. Nguyen Huu Tri is gaining stature as a possible successor to President Tac,

- 25X1 1. [REDACTED] Comment. This is contrary to previous Quat statements advocating French withdrawal within one or two years.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment. The desire of the National Congress to unite the nationalist parties has a chance for partial success. It appears the majority of delegates are willing to support the moderate program of Tac and Tu, which is supported by Sung. The local minority extremists, however, will not join in supporting this program.

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